

# RESIDENTIAL STAIRWAYS - HANDRAILS

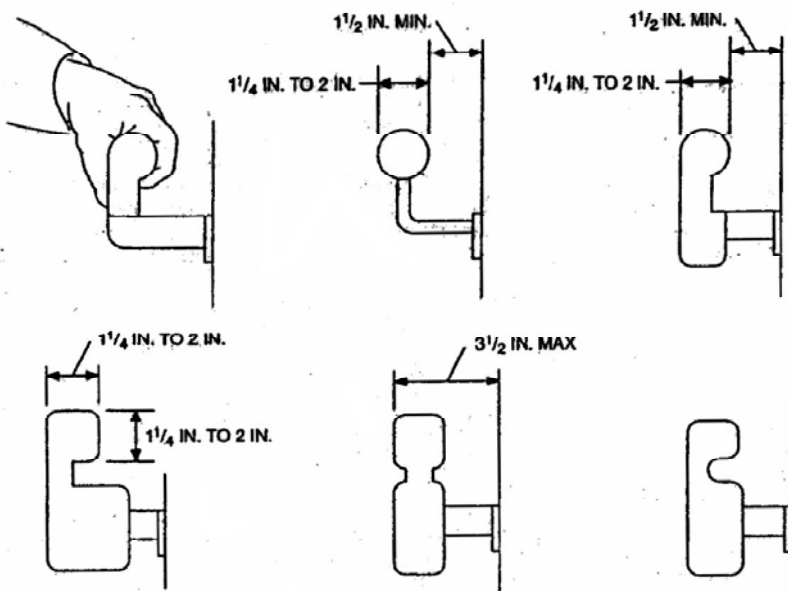
## Reference: Section 1003.3.3.6.1 Handrails.

Based on the above section, handrails are required on each side of stairways and shall be continuous the full length of the stairs. They shall be placed not less than 34 inches nor more than 38 inches above landings and the nosing of treads. Ends shall be returned or shall have rounded terminations or bends.

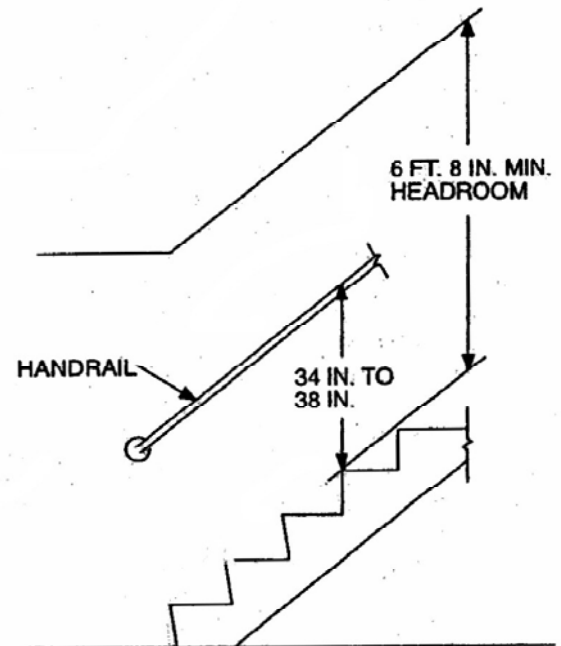
One handrail is permitted under the following exceptions based on HCD Modifications to the UBC:

- (1) Stairways serving one individual dwelling unit may have one handrail, except that stairways open on one or both sides shall have handrails on the open side or sides--as well as guardrails on any open side or sides.
- (2) Private stairways 30 inches or less in height may have handrails on one side only.
- (3) Stairways having three risers or less and stairways giving access to portable work stands less than 30 inches high are not required to have handrails.

The handgrip portion of handrails shall not be less than 1-1/4 inches nor more than 2 inches in cross-sectional dimension or the shape shall provide an equivalent gripping surface. The handgrip portion of handrails shall have a smooth surface with no sharp corners. Handrails projecting from a wall shall have a space of not less than 1-1/2 inches between the wall and the handrail.



NOTE: Other shapes may be acceptable if they provide an equivalent gripping surface. See third paragraph of Section 1003.3.3.6.



PLACER COUNTY  
BUILDING DEPARTMENT

2001 CALIFORNIA BUILDING CODE  
SECTION 103.3.3.6

DATE: NOVEMBER 1, 2002